

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 230336

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 230336

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE WASHDC INFO MOSCOW FROM
BONN OCT 16

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 16302

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, GW, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET INTEREST IN LONG-TERM COMMODITY
AGREEMENTS

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY STEEG OF THE FRG ECONOMICS
MINISTRY RECENTLY INFORMALLY ASKED THE ECONOMIC/
COMMERCIAL MINISTER WHETHER THE SOVIETS HAD EXPRESSED
TO THE USG, ANY DESIRE TO CONCLUDE LONG TERM GOVERNMENT-
TO-GOVERNMENT COMMODITY AGREEMENTS. SHE SAID THAT
THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO BONN, FALIN, HAD APPROACHED
STATE SECRETARY ROHWEDDER IN THE FRG ECONOMICS MINISTRY
AND PROPOSED SUCH AN AGREEMENT. FALIN SUGGESTED
THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD BE PREPARED TO PROVIDE COMMODITIES
IN EXCHANGE FOR A FIRM EXPRESSION OF INTEREST BY THE
FRG IN SPECIFIC DELIVERIES.

2. ACTION REQUESTED. WE WOULD APPRECIATE BEING
INFORMED ON THE USG ATTITUDE ON THIS QUESTION AND ANY
INFORMATION ON A SOVIET APPROACH TO US, IN ORDER
TO RESPOND TO MRS. STEEG'S INQUIRY.
HILLENBRAND UNQUOTE KISSINGER
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PAGE 02 STATE 230336

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